## In the Claims:

- (original) A centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder for alkaline batteries consisting of either of
  - (a) 0.005-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.005-0.2 % by weight of either one of Al and Bi, or
    - (b) 0.005-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.005-0.2 % by weight of Bi, and 0.001-0.5 % of either one or both of Al and Ca, or
  - (c) 0.005-2 % by weight of either one or both of Bi and Al, and 0-0.5 % by weight of Pb, the remainder being zinc, and characterized in that the centrifugal atomising process is performed in a protective atmosphere, where the oxygen content is less than 4% by volume.
- 2. (original) A centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder according to claim 1, consisting of either of
  - (a) 0.01-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.01-0.2 % by weight of either one of Al and Bi, or
  - (b) 0.005-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.01-0.2 % by weight of Bi, and 0.003-0.5 % of either one or both of Al and Ca, or
  - (c) 0.01-2 % by weight of either one or both of Bi and Al, and 0-0.5 % by weight of Pb, the remainder being zinc.
- 3. (previously amended) A centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder in alkaline batteries according to claim 2, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is greater than 0 % by volume.
- 4. (original) A centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder in alkaline batteries according to claim 3, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is between 0.2 % and 3.5% by volume.
- 5. (previously amended) An alkaline battery consisting of an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte, characterized in that the battery uses a centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder according to claim 1.
- 6. (original) An alkaline battery according to claim 5, characterized in that the powder comprises metal cemented out of the electrolyte.

- 7. (original) A process for the manufacturing of a zinc alloy powder for alkaline batteries, comprising the step of centrifugally atomising a zinc alloy consisting either of
  - (a) 0.005-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.005-0.2 % by weight of either one of Al and Bi, or
  - (b) 0.005-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.005-0.2 % by weight of Bi, and 0.001-0.5 % of either one or both of Al and Ca, or
  - (c) 0.005-2 % by weight of either one or both of Bi and Al, and 0-0.5 % by weight of Pb, the remainder being zinc, characterized in that the centrifugal atomising process is performed in a protective atmosphere, where the oxygen content is less than 4% by volume.
- 8. (original) A process for the manufacturing of a zinc alloy powder for alkaline batteries, comprising the step of centrifugally atomising a zinc alloy consisting either of
  - (a) 0.01-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.01-0.2 % by weight of either one of Al and Bi, or
  - (b) 0.005-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.01-0.2 % by weight of Bi, and 0.003-0.5 % of either one or both of Al and Ca, or
  - (c) 0.01-2 % by weight of either one or both of Bi and Al, and 0-0.5 % by weight of Pb, the remainder being zinc, characterized in that the centrifugal atomising process is performed in a protective atmosphere, where the oxygen content is less than 4% by volume.
- 9. (previously amended) A process according to claim 7, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is greater than 0% by volume.
- 10. (previously amended) A process according to claim 9, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is between 0.2 % and 3.5% by volume.
- 11. (previously added) A centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder in alkaline batteries according to claim 1, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is greater than 0 % by volume.

- 12. (previously added) An alkaline battery consisting of an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte, characterized in that the battery uses a centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder according to claim 2.
- 13. (previously added) An alkaline battery consisting of an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte, characterized in that the battery uses a centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder according to claim 3.
- 14. (previously added) An alkaline battery consisting of an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte, characterized in that the battery uses a centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder according to claim 4.
- 15. (previously added) A process according to claim 8, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is greater than 0 % by volume.
- 16. (previously added) A process according to claim 7, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is between 0.2 % and 3.5% by volume.
- 17. (previously added) A process according to claim 8 characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is between 0.2 % and 3.5% by volume.